(c) the extent to which this would improve the rapidly congesting of national highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) it is too early to estimate the impact of private participation regarding relief of congestion on the National Highways since that will depend upon the response ultimately received from the private setcor.

Supply of Hank Yarn to Handloom Sector

263. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of hank yarn required by the handloom sector in the country;

(b) what are the steps taken to supply hank yarn to the handloom weavers at reasonable prices; and

(c) whether the South India Mills Association and the Northern India Textile Mills Association have agreed to supply the requisite quantity of hank yarn at pre-budget prices to the National Handloom Development Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) In view of the decentralised nature of production in handloom sector, it is difficult to quantify the requirement of hank yarn in the handloom sector. However, the requirement of cotton hank yarn in the handloom sector has been estimated at 372 million kgs on the basis of number of looms and monthly average productivity per loom.

(b) Central Government have arrangements of standing nature to ensure the regular supply of hank yarn to the handloom weavers at reasonable prices through various measures, such as (i) The Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme which requires every producer of yarn to pack at least 50 per cent of the total yarn packed for civil consumption in hank form; (ii) Loan assistance through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for setting up of new Weavers' Cooperative Spinning Mills and expanding the capacity of existing weavers' cooperative spinning mills in order to augment production for the handloom sector; (iii) Setting up of the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) with the primary objective of supplying hank yarn to weavers at reasonable prices;

(iv) Constitution of State Level Yarn Price Fixation Committees to regulate selling prices of hank yarn produced by cooperative and State sector mills for supplies to the handloom weavers; and (v) Complete exemption of excise duty on plain reel hank yarn and partial exemption on double cross reel hand yarn in order to make available yarn to handloom weavers at reasonable prices.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Setting up of Institute of Handloom Technology in Andhra Pradesh

264. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have agreed for the setting up of an Institute of Handloom Technology in Andhra Pradesh; if so, when; and

(b) whether the Institute has been set up and if not, what are the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The

Central Government had agreed in 1989 for the setting up of an Institute of Hadloom Technology in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The Institute has not been set up so far. The Governent of Andhra Pradesh has informed that there were some delays in identification and selection of site. Site has now been selected and foundation stone laid by Honourable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Central Research Institute for Handloom Industry

265. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what were the amounts earmarked for carrying on research to help promotion of handloom industry during the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 and the manner in which they were spent;

(b) what are the results thereof; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to have a separate Central Research Institute to work for development of handloom industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The following amounts were sanctioned to various Institutions to carry out Research and Development work in the Handloom Sector during the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

1988-89	12.64
1989-90	7.71
1990-91	5.79

(b) A statement is attached as Annexure (*See* Appendix CLXI, Annexure No 6).

(c) No, Sir.

Migration of Handloom Weavers from Srikakulam District in Andhra Pradesh

266. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of handloom weavers who have migrated from several centres in the districts of Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh in the year 1989-90 and 1990-91 and what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government have received any representation in the matter; and

(c) what arrangements have been made to prevent migration of handloom weavers from Srikakulam district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) About 500 weaver families are reported to have migrated to neighbouring districts from Srikakulam of whom about 260 families are from the cooperative sector. Reasons for migration are to earn more wages available in othe occupations and non-availability of continuous employment in handlooms.

(b) and (c) It has been reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh that migration of weaver families has occured from villages which are in the area of operation of the dormant and weak societies. Debt relief claims in respect of these societies have been recommended. Additional credit limits have been recommended to the NABARD to enable the Societies to provide continuous employment to the wavers members. APCO has been advised to issue additional production programme and arrange to procure the stocks.